The Kidney Research and Education Initiative (KREI)
City University London

Newsletter
Winter 2010

The Launch of KREI

What is the KREI?

On Tuesday 19 October the ‘Kidney Research and Education Initiative’ (KREI) at City University London was launched. The main aim of the Initiative is to become a centre of excellence for kidney care, education and research that has a particular focus on patient participation in research and teaching.

Who are we?

We are a small group of lecturers and researchers within the School of Community and Health Sciences who have a special interest in kidney care and/or user involvement in research and education.

What was the Launch about?

The launch was attended by 40 delegates, including representatives from the Kidney Alliance, the National Kidney Federation, the British Kidney Patients Association and local Kidney Patients Associations. The aim of the launch was to promote user involvement in kidney care, education and research and to showcase the renal research and education that is being undertaken at City University London.

Delegates listened to Fiona Loud, Chair of the Kidney Alliance, on the importance of user and carer involvement as well as hearing about projects that have involved users and carers in their design and implementation. Three workshops in the afternoon focused on self-management and self-care, managing challenging behaviour in dialysis and how best to involve users and carers in research.

Fiona Loud, Chair of the Kidney Alliance

Our future plans
One main outcome of the day was a commitment to developing an Advisory Group whose members are patients and carers, that will help shape City University London’s future renal research and education activities. The Advisory Group will be set-up in early 2011. Individual patients, carers and those representing patient organisations who have showed an interest in joining this Advisory Group will be contacted very soon about meeting dates for 2011. It is hoped that the Initiative will also develop best-practice guidance for practitioners who are interested in user participation in renal research, education and practice. Other aims of the Initiative include supporting clinicians in high-quality research and quality improvement activities, providing kidney care courses for nurses and allied health care professionals in primary and secondary care and supervising undergraduate and post-graduate students in the field of kidney care.

Other News

Education

At City University we currently run two degree level modules for nurses who are hoping to specialise in kidney care. These two modules will next run in May and September 2011. See the web links below for further information

http://www.city.ac.uk/communityandhealth/cpd/modules/NM3241.html
http://www.city.ac.uk/communityandhealth/cpd/modules/NM3242.html

In addition we are hoping to develop Masters level renal modules from September 2011. If you are interested in studying renal care at Masters level then please contact Nicola Thomas n.m.thomas@city.ac.uk for more information.

Research Grants

There is still time to apply for the Kidney Research UK/British Renal Society Fellowship, closing date 22 December 2010.

The British Renal Society and Kidney Research UK invite applications from healthcare professionals for a fellowship to undertake research in the field of renal disease and its management. A maximum total amount of £75,000 over a period of up to three years is available for the fellowship, which may be worked flexibly (part-time) in combination with clinical/teaching duties.


Conferences

The INVOLVE Conference

INVOLVE is a national advisory group which supports greater public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. http://www.invo.org.uk/ Alan Simpson, Nicola Thomas and Fiona Loud from the KREI attended and gave presentations.

Taking SUGAR to INVOLVE

Prof Alan Simpson (from KREI) and Jody Quigley from the Mental Health department at City University gave a joint presentation at the INVOLVE conference with two service user members, Nelly Adongakulu and Fadeke Coker, from SUGAR the service user and carer advisory group on research in mental health nursing.

The packed session heard Alan explained how the SUGAR group was established to provide a long-term collaborative relationship with users and carers, how the members were recruited through the local mental health NHS Trust and had become honorary staff members of City University. Nelly and Fadeke gave more personalised accounts of their experiences of being members of the group and how their involvement had increased their confidence and
self-esteem while allowing them to engage with research that was aimed to improve mental health services.

The key factors identified that underpinned the success of the group included:

- Inclusion and equality is important to members
- Ground rules and efficient chairing are essential
- Dominant members and people interrupting are a common concern and requires sensitive facilitation
- Interesting and relevant topics to which members can relate are important
- Careful choice of suitable venue is necessary
- Providing something in return for their input (research training, social networking, payment and lunch!) helps members feel valued and builds confidence
- A diverse and passionate group make for a beneficial and worthwhile experience for all

We aim to develop the KREI Advisory Group on similar lines and hope to learn from the experiences of the mental health department.

The European Dialysis & Transplant Nursing Association/European Renal Care Association Dublin, September 2010.

Two members of the KREI gave presentations at this conference.

Julia Jones and colleagues: What do staff need to learn about managing aggression in renal units?

Nicola Thomas: A CKD collaborative service approach in primary care

Julia has also been invited to join the editorial board of the Journal of Renal Care alongside other KREI members, Helen Noble and Nicola Thomas.


Helen Noble attended the 8th Annual Meeting of Group D.E.V.E.N.I.R. in Quebec in October of this year. She presented on the role of palliative care services for those managed without dialysis to treat their end stage renal failure and shared findings from her recent PhD. The meeting involved a number of invited international speakers on various aspects of renal care to a varied multi-professional group including nurses, doctors, dieticians and occupational therapists.

Publications

Recent publications from the KREI team include:


A recent student nurse of City University, Charlotte Turner, has published a literature review with Dr Helen Noble in the Journal of Renal Nursing titled: How are patient information needs met prior to renal transplantation? The review examined the information given to patients in order to help patients and their families deal with the challenges that come with renal transplantation. http://www.renalnursing.co.uk/


This is about nurse prescribing for CKD patients for interested staff written with Sheila Johnson a recent MSc student with City University London.
Don’t forget: World Kidney Day 2011

www.worldkidneyday.co.uk for further information

Keeping in touch

Please feel free to send this Newsletter to your colleagues and if they would like to join our mailing list then please email n.m.thomas@city.ac.uk. Our next Newsletter will be published in Spring 2011. We hope to run a seminar on “User Involvement in Renal Research, Education and Practice” in Summer 2011. Further details in due course.

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